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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the 1973 graduates in terms of: (1) the type of degrees and curricula they completed; (2) their transfer and/or employment plans; and (3) their recommendations of the programs they completed. The value gained from this study was expected to provide additional information concerning: (1) the effectiveness of programs at the college; (2) the success of graduates in finding employment and/or transferring to other institutions; and (3) a more adequate appraisal of the students' opinions concerning their academic program. The findings are presented in tables and a graduation questionnaire is included in the report. (Author/SW)

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TRANSFER, EMPLOYMENT, AND OPINIONS
OF THE 1973 JUNE AND
AUGUST GRADUATES

OIR 12-73

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INTRODUCTION

Graduation ceremonies are tangible evidences of academic success for both students and instructors at Virginia Western Community College (VWCC). The June and August 1973 graduation classes consisted of 339 students who were awarded academic degrees in one of five degree programs. A thorough, systematic examination of this student population is an ongoing study which is expected to gain information that will enable the college to do a better job of extending higher educational opportunities to all people of the Roanoke Valley and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Purpose of the Study. The purpose of this study was to examine the 1973 graduates in terms of (1) the type of degrees and curricula they completed, (2) their transfer and/or employment plans, and (3) their recommendations of the programs they completed. The value gained from this study was expected to provide additional information concerning (1) the effectiveness of programs at the college, (2) the success of graduates in finding employment and/or transferring to other institutions, and (3) a more adequate appraisal of the students' opinions concerning their academic program.

The Data and Its Treatment. The total number of graduates in degree programs and curricula was obtained from the Graduation File of VWCC's Office of Admissions and Records. Data concerning graduates' immediate plans and their opinions of the college were self-reported on the Graduation Questionnaire GR 12 developed by VWCC's Office of Institutional

Research (Appendix). Additional data were supplied by division chairmen and instructors at the college.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Degrees and Curricula. VWCC awarded Associate In Arts Degrees (21), Associate In Science Degrees (86), Associate In Applied Science Degrees (154), Diplomas (16), and Certificates (62). Table 1 indicates the Degree and Curriculum of the 1973 June and August graduates.

TABLE 1

DEGREE AND CURRICULUM OF 1973 JUNE AND AUGUST GRADUATES

		June	August
Associate in Arts	Liberal Arts	15	4
	Music	2	0
	Subtotal	17	4
Associate in Science	Business Administration	23	12
	Pre-Engineering	2	0
	Pre-Teacher Education	24	12
	Science	7	6
	Subtotal	56	30
Associate in Applied Science	Accounting	12	3
	Architectural Technology	4	1
	Business Management	25	5
	Civil Engineering Technology	6	1
	Commercial Art	9	3
	Data Processing Technology	7	0
	Electrical/Electronics Engr. Tech.	15	3
	Mechanical Engineering Technology	7	2
	Police Science	6	2
	Radio & Television Production	8	2
	Radiologic Technology	1	1
	Secretarial Science	30	1
	Subtotal	130	24
Diploma	Automotive Technology	16	0
Certificate	Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	10	1
	Architectural Drafting	1	0
	Clerk-Typist	17	3
	Dental Assistant	0	11
	Engineering Technical Assistant	1	0
	Industrial Management	1	0
	Stenographic	16	1
	Subtotal	62	16
Grand Total		265	74

Pre-Teacher Education (36), Business Administration (35), Business Management (30), and Secretarial Science (31) were curricula that reported the largest number of graduates.

Employment and/or Transfer. Table 2 indicates the immediate plans of the graduates by curricula.

TABLE 2

IMMEDIATE PLANS AND CURRICULA OF GRADUATES

	<u>Job-In-Field Of Study</u>	<u>Job-Out-Of Field Of Study</u>	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>Other</u>
<u>Associate in Art</u>				
Liberal Arts	0	1	14	0
Music	1	0	1	0
<u>Associate in Science</u>				
Business Administration	1	3	17	0
Pre-Engineering	0	0	2	0
Pre-Teacher	0	1	21	0
Science	1	1	8	0
<u>Associate in Applied Science</u>				
Accounting	6	0	4	1
Architectural Technology	4	1	0	0
Business Management	15	3	5	1
Civil Engineering	3	0	0	1
Commercial Art	7	0	1	0
Data Processing	4	0	0	0
Electrical/Electronics Technology	9	3	1	2
Mechanical Engineering	7	0	1	0
Police Science	3	1	4	0
Radio & TV Production Technology	4	2	1	3
Radiologic Technology	2	0	0	0
Secretarial Science	24	0	2	2
<u>Diploma</u>				
Automotive Technology	9	2	0	3
<u>Certificate</u>				
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	3	2	0	0
Architectural Drafting	1	0	0	0
Clerk-Typist	6	0	0	2
Dental Assistant	10	0	0	1
Engineering/Technical Assistant	1	0	0	0
Industrial Management	1	0	0	0
Stenographic	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	132	20	82	17

Table 2 indicated the immediate plans of approximately 75% of all graduates. In examining the data from respondents, it was noted that (1) approximately 52% of the graduates took jobs in their field of study, (2) approximately 33% of the graduates transferred to other institutions of higher education, (3) approximately 8% of the graduates took jobs out of their field of study, and (4) approximately 7% of the graduates indicated "other" plans after graduation. Written responses for "other" category were marriage, travel, volunteer work, etc.

An examination of employment by curricula revealed especially high employment in Secretarial Science, Dental Assistant, Data Processing, and Engineering Technologies. Liberal Arts, Business Administration, Pre-Teacher, and Science were curricula whose graduates typically indicated plans to transfer to other higher educational institutions.

Table 3 indicates an alphabetical listing of employers of the 1973 graduates.

TABLE 3

INDICATED EMPLOYER OF 1973 GRADUATES*

A.B.C. Board	Mod-U-Kraft
Appalachian Power Company	Newport News Shipbuilding
Babcock & Wilcox	Norfolk & Western
Bedford County School Board	Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
Beneficial Finance	Performance Unlimited
Best Products	Piedmont Airlines
Blair Company	Pilot Life Insurance
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	Preston Plumbing & Heating
Blue Ridge Minute Market	R.W. Properties
Blue Ridge Motors	Roanoke City Health Department
Brown Edwards Company	Roanoke City Schools
Byron Dickson, Architect	Roanoke County Schools
Carter Machinery	Roanoke Mills
Chapman, Taney, Painter, & Logan	Roanoke Ready Mix
Chemical & Paper Service	Roanoke Salem Clinic
Community Hospital	Roanoke School Board
Cross Sales & Engineering Company	Roanoke Telecasting
Custom Wood Products	Roanoke Valley Council on Community Ser.
Davenport Company	Roanoke Valley Motors
Dental Associates, Incorporation	RockyDale Quarries Corp.
Dominion Bankshares Corporation	Rocky Mt. Police Department
Double Envelope	Salem Police Department
Eggleston & Glenn	Sears
Eaton Company	Security National Bank
Farmer's National Bank	Shenandoah Life Insurance
Floyd County Administration	Sheretz & Shaffner, Architects
Fulton Motor Company	Sidneys
G.J. Hopkins, Corporation	Simpson, Charles R., Building Contractor
General Electric	Singer Furniture Company
General Motors Acceptance Corp.	Smartwear Irving Saks
General Sales	Stedman House
Goodyear	Stone Printing
Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern	Thomas Nelson Community College
Hazelgrove, Carr, Dickinson, Smith & Rea	U.S. Post Office
Heironimus	Valley Air Conditioning
Houck Advertising	Veterans Administration
Industrial Fabricators	Viar & Young, Attorneys-at-law
Kelley Heating & Air Conditioning	Virginia State Highway Department
Kennett & Kennett	Virginia Western Community College
Kenrose Manufacturing Company	WBRA - TV (Channel 15)
Leggett's Department Store	WDBJ - TV (Channel 7)
Lewis Gale Clinic	Westinghouse
Lutins & Lawrence, Attorneys-at-law	WFIR - Radio
Martin Processing Company	Wiley & Wilson
Master TV	WVWR - Radio
McLean Trucking Company	Xerox

*Nine Graduates were employed in Dental
Offices

The data indicated that a large number of the graduates accepted employment in the Roanoke Valley. Their addition to the community and its economy will certainly have a positive long-range effect on the Roanoke Valley and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Table 2 indicated that approximately 33% of the respondents plan to transfer to other institutions of higher education. Table 4 indicates the transfer institutions of graduates by type of degree.

TABLE 4
INDICATED TRANSFER INSTITUTIONS OF 1973 GRADUATES
BY DEGREE PROGRAMS

<u>Institutions</u>	<u>Associate In Arts</u>	<u>Associate In Science</u>	<u>Associate In Applied Science</u>
Brigham Young University	0	1	0
East Tennessee State University	1	1	1
Freewill Baptist Bible College	0	1	0
Hollins College	1	1	0
Madison College	3	0	0
Medical College of Virginia	0	1	0
Old Dominion University	1	0	0
Radford College	3	5	12
Roanoke College	1	7	1
University of Georgia	0	1	0
University of New York	0	1	0
University of Virginia	1	1	0
University of Washington	0	1	0
Virginia Commonwealth University	0	2	0
Virginia Intermont College	0	0	1
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	<u>4</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	15	48	18

The data indicated the largest number of graduates planned to transfer to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (48%), Radford College (30%), and Roanoke College (14%). In past years only the Associate In Art and the Associate In Science Degrees were considered college transfer programs with the Associate In Applied Science usually a terminal degree. However, an examination of the transfer patterns of graduates indicated that 18 of the Associate In Applied Science Degree holders did, in fact, state plans to transfer to four-year institutions. The fact that many career program students transfer to four-year schools and some transfer-program graduates do not continue their education but instead enter the job market is not necessarily bad for the students themselves. The point to discern is that all programs at VWCC are receiving wider acceptance by four-year institutions, local businesses, industries, and local/state governments.

Recommendation of Completed Program. In order to obtain an idea of the graduate's overall satisfaction with his educational experiences at VWCC, the student was asked if he or she would recommend VWCC to a person seeking to complete the same program of study. Table 5 indicates the responses of the graduates to this research question.

TABLE 5
RECOMMENDATION OF
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS BY GRADUATES

Would you recommend VWCC to a person seeking to complete the same program you studied? 1 Yes 2 No Specific _____

YES		NO	
<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
181	94.3	11	5.7

The data indicated that approximately 95% of the respondents would recommend VWCC to a person seeking to complete the same programs of study of the respondents. This result was a strong indication that students had received positive and useful experiences at the college. Specific reasons for recommending the college were as follows:

- Economical . . .
- Good instructors . . .
- Excellent educational opportunity . . .
- Teachers take real interest in students and their needs . . .
- Good program for transfer students . . .
- Close to home . . .
- Courses are great assets to me now that I am employed as a receptionist . . .
- Nice facilities and great faculty . . .

Negative comments typically concerned facilities of the college.

Good instruction, but inadequate facilities in my department.

A major highway bisecting a college campus is a ludicrous solution to population control. I commend the administration for petitioning the state for enough funds to build a classroom bridge complex over Colonial Avenue.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary. This study examined VWCC's 1973 June and August graduation classes in terms of (1) the type of degrees and curricula they completed, (2) their transfer and/or employment plans, and (3) their recommendations of the programs they completed. Data for the study were obtained (1) from graduation data of VWCC's Office of Admissions and Records, (2) by self-reports of the graduates on the Graduation Questionnaire GR12, and (3) from reports of division chairmen and instructors.

VWCC awarded 339 degrees in five degree programs. Twenty-six curricula were identified. Approximately 52% of the graduates took jobs in their field of study. Sixty-one employers were identified. Approximately 33% of the graduates transferred to other institutions of higher education with sixteen transfer institutions identified. Responses in categories of "job-out-of-field of study" and "other" were reported by approximately 15% of the graduates.

Over 94% of the respondents indicated that they would recommend VWCC to a person seeking to complete the same program they studied. Low cost, good programs and instruction, close to home, etc. were reasons typically specified by respondents.

Conclusion. According to reports from a large majority of 1973 graduates, the college's educational programs have been successful for them. Most transfer graduates have indicated plans to transfer to four-year institutions and career graduates have taken employment in local offices and industries. The fact that some transfer graduates took employment and some career graduates transferred to four-year institutions indicated the strengths and flexibilities of the academic programs of the college. The fact that an overwhelming majority of graduates indicated that they would recommend their programs of studies to others indicated that most graduates were satisfied with their programs of study.

APPENDIX

GRADUATION QUESTIONNAIRE GR 12

Dear Graduate:

We at Virginia Western Community College are searching for ways to improve our educational programs. Since you are in a good position to help us at this point, we would like to have your opinion of the college and your immediate plans. By completing this questionnaire, you have an opportunity to help VWCC continue to improve its programs.

Although your Social Security number is requested, it is used for statistical purposes only. Your responses will be held in strictest confidence and will be combined with those of other students in reporting the results of this study.

Thank you.

Social Security Number _____ - _____ - _____

ANSWER EACH QUESTION BY WRITING THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER IN THE BLANK SPACE. SHOW ONLY ONE ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION.

___ 1. Sex <u>1</u> Male <u>2</u> Female	3. Show the highest educational level completed by each of your parents. ___ (a) Father								
___ 2. Marital Status <u>1</u> Single or Engaged <u>2</u> Married <u>3</u> Other	___ (b) Mother <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>1</u> under 8 years</td> <td><u>5</u> attended college</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>2</u> Completed 8th grade</td> <td><u>6</u> four-year college graduate</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>3</u> attended high school</td> <td><u>7</u> master's or higher degree</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>4</u> high school graduate</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<u>1</u> under 8 years	<u>5</u> attended college	<u>2</u> Completed 8th grade	<u>6</u> four-year college graduate	<u>3</u> attended high school	<u>7</u> master's or higher degree	<u>4</u> high school graduate	
<u>1</u> under 8 years	<u>5</u> attended college								
<u>2</u> Completed 8th grade	<u>6</u> four-year college graduate								
<u>3</u> attended high school	<u>7</u> master's or higher degree								
<u>4</u> high school graduate									
___ 4. Would you recommend VWCC to a person seeking to complete the same program you studied? <u>1</u> Yes <u>2</u> No Specify _____									
___ 5. (a) Were you enrolled in developmental English? <u>1</u> Yes <u>2</u> No ___ (b) If <u>YES</u>, were the courses helpful to you? <u>1</u> yes, very much <u>2</u> yes, somewhat <u>3</u> very little <u>4</u> not at all	___ 6. (a) Were you enrolled in developmental mathematics? <u>1</u> Yes <u>2</u> No ___ (b) If <u>YES</u>, were the courses helpful to you? <u>1</u> yes, very much <u>2</u> yes, somewhat <u>3</u> very little <u>4</u> not at all								

7. My immediate plans are to (place number and written response):

1 Take a job in my major field of study at _____
name of employer

_____ location
Starting Salary (Per Month) _____

2 Take a job out of my major field of study at _____
name of employer

_____ location

3 Transfer to _____
name of school

_____ location

4 Other (Specify) _____

8. Please give your opinion about each of the following aspects of your VWCC experience.
Mark only one answer for each aspect.

	Superior	Good	Fair	Poor
a. Shop and laboratory instruction	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Academic instruction	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Shop and laboratory facilities and equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. All other college facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Counseling given to students by counselors	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Counseling given to students by faculty advisors	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Social activities	☐	☐	☐	☐
h. Interest in students shown by faculty	☐	☐	☐	☐
i. Evaluation of students' performance by faculty	☐	☐	☐	☐
j. Overall	☐	☐	☐	☐

9. We would appreciate any comments you care to make about your education at VWCC.
(Use back of page if needed)

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LOS ANGELES

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